

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3851

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4711

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM POPPER

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, PFOR

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STUDY

GROUP VISIT

REF: SANTIAGO 4697

1. MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC COORDINATION RAUL SAEZ TOLD ME WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT CANCELLATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION STUDY GROUP VISIT, AT HIS OFFICE JULY 7.

2. AS YOU KNOW, VISIT HAD BEEN DEFINITELY LAID ON, AND AN INFORMAL COMMITTEE OF CHILEAN MINISTERS AND SPECIALISTS HAD BEEN AT WORK PREPARING TO BRIEF AND ASSIST STUDY GROUP ON ITS ARRIVAL IN SANTIAGO. (WHEN I SAY FONMIN CARVAJAL JULY 3, HE TOLD ME FONOFF WAS PREPARING TO SEND LIAISON OFFICERS TO LIMA FOR ADVANCE BRIEFING OF STUDY GROUP.) HOWEVER, PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD FROM THE BEGINNING EXPRESSED DOUBTS AS TO ADVISABILITY OF ACCEPTING COMMISSION, AND HIS PERSONAL ADVISERS HAD OBVIOUSLY PERSUADED HIM TO REVERSE GOC'S DECISION.

3. SAEZ FIRST HEARD OF THE CHANGE JULY 4. ALTHOUGH PINOCHET WAS ON VERGE OF DEPARTING FOR VISIT TO NORTH, SAEZ MANAGED TO SEE HIM BRIEFLY BUT FOUND HIM UNYIELDING. PRESIDENT TOOK LINE THAT MEMBERS OF STUDY GROUP, NOTABLY BENITEZ OF ECUADOR AND TO A LESSER DEGREE CHAIRMAN ALLANA OF PAKISTAN, HAD MADE PREJUDICIAL STATEMENTS INDICATING THEY WERE BIASED. CONSEQUENTLY, AND IMPARTIAL

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REPORT WAS NOT TO BE EXPECTED FROM THE. IT WOULD BE A DIFFERNT

THING IF A NUMBER OF UNCOMMITTED OUTSTANDING PERSONALITIES
WERE INVITED TO VISIT AND LOOK AROUND IN CHILE.

4. DURING THIS MEETING PINOCHET TOLD SAEZ THAT STUDY GROUP MEETING
WOULD BE "SUSPENDED" AND NOT DEFINITELY CALLED OFF. SOMETHING HAD
CLEARLY OCCURRED BETWEEN THAT MOMENT AND DELIVERY OF PINOCHET'S
SPEECH AT BALLENDAR LATER IN DAY TO TOUGHEN UP PRESIDENT'S VIEWS.

5. SAEZ AND THAT FONMIN CARVAJAL, JUSTICE MINISTER SCHWEITZER,
SPECIALIST SERGIO DIEZ, AND HE HIMSELF HAD ALL WEIGHED IN AGAINST
INTERFERENCE WITH STUDY GRUOP PROGRAM. I ASKED HIM WHO HE THOUGHT
MIGHT HAVE TURNED THE PRESIDENT AROUND. HE WAS A BIT EVASIVE,
BUT DID SAY THAT HE BELIEVED COL. CONTRERAS, THE HEAD OF DINA,
HAD BEEN VERY OPPOSED TO THE VISIT.

6. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AT 5 P.M. TODAY WITH CARVAJAL PURSUANT
TO AMBASSADOR RYAN'S INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER A FORMAL GOC STATEMENT
YET EXISTS BARRING THE STUDY GROUP. IF SO, I ASSUME THAT CHILEAN
UN REPRESENTATIVE ADMIRAL HUERTA WILL BE DELIVERING IT SHORTLY.
I WILL ADVISE SOONEST.
POPPER

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